

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00505 170759Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /031 W

-----171258Z 074510 /20

R 160840Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0505

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BTIO BGEN TC

SUBJ: EARLY WARNING-FOREIGN GOV'T TENDER: INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT

SUMMARY: ABU DHABI DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS PLANS TO BUILD  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN AL-AIN. END SUMMARY

1. IN EARLY APRIL ABU DHABI DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
(DPW) WILL INVITE PROPOSALS FROM EIGHT PRE-QUALIFIED  
CONSULTANTS FOR DESIGN OF NEW AL-AIN AIRPORT.  
EXACT SCOPE OF PROJECT  
NOT YET DETERMINED, MAIN UNANSWERED QUESTION BEING EXTENT  
OF MILITARY FACILITIES TO BE INCLUDED. AIRPORT WILL HAVE  
RUNWAYS AND NAVIGATION AIDS CAPABLE OF HANDLING  
BOEING 707S, BUT TERMINAL WILL BE MODEST. IT DOUBTFUL  
AL-AIN WOULD HAVE MORE THAN TOKEN WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL  
FLIGHT, IF THAT, BUT FACILITIES FOR CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION  
AUTHORITIES WILL BE INCLUDED IN PROJECT. PUBLICATION OF  
INVITATION TO TENDER CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE IN  
LATE 1977. PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COST A MINIMUM OF  
\$60 MILLION.

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2. U.S. FIRM ADRIAN WILSON ASSOCIATES OF LOS ANGELES IS  
ON LIST OF PREQUALIFIED CONSULTANTS. ACCORDING TO DPW  
OFFICIAL, ONE OTHER U.S. FIRM - WHOSE IDENTITY  
WAS NOT REVEALED - IS ALSO ON LIST.

3. COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED  
CONSULTING FIRMS FOR AL-AIN AIRPORT WAS PREPARED NOT BY

DPW BUT BY ABU DHABI PROJECTS COMMITTEE. IN PAST, DPW HAS CHOSEN CONSULTANTS ON ITS OWN, IGNORING ABU DHABI PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE FOR CONSULTING FIRMS WHICH WAS INITIATED WELL OVER YEAR AGO. THIS TIME, SHORT-LIST OF EIGHT PRE-QUALIFIED FIRMS WAS MADE UP BY PROJECTS COMMITTEE FROM LIST OF FIRMS WHICH HAD BEEN REGISTERED BY PLANNING DEPT AS APPROVED DESIGNERS OF AIRPORTS. EVIDENCE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT PLANNING DEPT IS BEGINNING TO EXTEND ITS AUTHORITY TO PASS JUDGMENT ON QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED BY ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT, AND EMBASSY CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND THAT U.S. CONSULTANTS INTERESTED IN WORKING IN ABU DHABI CONTACT ABU DHABI PLANNING DEPARTMENT (P.O. BOX 12, ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES) TO OBTAIN REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORMS.  
DICKMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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